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As of: 2022/03/25 06:47:40
Drafter: Toni Henneman, 406-444-3593 67th Legislature PD 0010

1	**** BILL NO. ****
2	INTRODUCED BY ****
3	BY REQUEST OF THE ****
4	
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY
6	SYSTEM FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
7	
8	WHEREAS, the Legislature created the Local Government Center in 1993 to "strengthen the capacities
9	of Montana's local governmental units to deliver essential services efficiently and to provide training, technical
10	assistance, and research to local officials", as provided in 20-25-237, MCA;
11	WHEREAS, counties, municipalities, and other local government entities remit fees for necessary
12	training provided by the Local Government Center, including but not limited to training on topics such as elected
13	officials' roles and responsibilities, Montana code of ethics, operating effective meetings, meeting notice and
14	citizen participation requirements, public record requirements, strategic planning, special district board training,
15	interlocal agreements, employee dispute mediation, by-law creation and operation, and parliamentary
16	procedure;
17	WHEREAS, the Local Government Center is statutorily required to provide technical assistance such
18	as listservs, reference documents, voter review assistance, and a website development education program in
19	addition to keeping up-to-date research publications such as the Montana County Board Handbook, Municipal
20	Officials Handbook, Montana Counties on the Move, Montana's Local Government Review, Montana's Local
21	Government Review Study Commission Handbook, Local Government Profiles, and the Montana Policy
22	Review;
23	WHEREAS, due to limited staffing, the Local Government Center must prioritize between providing
24	hands-on training and providing mandated technical assistance and publications, resulting in fewer necessary
25	services offered to local governments or the delay in updated publications;
26	WHEREAS, local government entities increasingly face more complicated and complex statutory
27	requirements, increasing the need for timely and effective training which in turn stresses the capacity of the
28	Local Government Center;

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1 WHEREAS, the Local Government Center requires two associate specialists to adequately meet the 2 Center's training, technical assistance, and publication requirements to fully support local government entities to 3 govern fairly, correctly, and effectively for the citizens of the state of Montana. 4 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 6 7 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. 1) For each fiscal year in the biennium beginning July 8 1, 2023, there is appropriated \$180,000 to the Montana university system to fund the local government center 9 at the Montana state university extension service. 10 (2) The appropriations in subsection (1) are intended to supplement base funding to the Montana 11 state university extension service for the local government center to fund the positions of two associate 12 specialists at the local government center. (3) The legislature intends that the appropriation in fiscal year 2023 be considered as part of the 13 14 ongoing base for subsequent legislative sessions. 15 16 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023. 17 - END -

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